

REMARKS

The Advisory Action of January 31, 2006 maintained a rejection based upon the *Wasilewski et al.* US Patent No. 5,870,474 as anticipating or rendering obvious the present claims when combined with the *Dillon* US Patent No. 5,659,615.

It is believed that the newly amended Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10, along with the additional new dependent Claim 11, clarifies the advantages of the present invention over the cited references.

The amendments to these claims are supported by the following descriptions in the specification:

Paragraph beginning on Page 19, line 27:

The usage conditions I_A and I_B are each composed of information limiting the usage of the digital contents M_A and M_B , such as an expiry date, a permitted number of executions, and/or a region of use. The digital contents M_A and M_B are therefore reproduced in accordance with these usage conditions I_A and I_B .

Paragraphs beginning on Page 23, line 14:

Next, the usage condition examining unit 206 examines the usage conditions I_A obtained in S103 to see if the limitations regarding the expiry date, number of uses, and region of use etc. are satisfied (S104).

If the usage conditions I_A are not satisfied (S104:No), the usage condition examining unit 206 informs the third decrypting unit 204 that the digital content M_A cannot be used, thereby completing the digital content using procedure.

If the usage conditions I_A are satisfied (S104:Yes), the usage condition examining unit 206 informs the third decrypting unit 204 that the digital content M_A can be used. The third decrypting unit 204 starts to decrypt the encrypted digital content $E(SK, M_A)$ using the unique key SK stored in the unique key storing unit 209 and the digital content using unit 205 starts to use the digital content M_A that is being decrypted (S105). In this case, the digital content M_A is digitized music, so that "using" the digital content M_A means reproducing the music represented by the digital content M_A .

In addition, the newly drafted dependent Claim 11 is further supported by the following

descriptions in the specification:

Paragraph beginning on Page 19, line 27:

The usage conditions I_A and I_B are each composed of information limiting the usage of the digital contents M_A and M_B , such as an expiry date, a permitted number of executions, and/or a region of use. The digital contents M_A and M_B are therefore reproduced in accordance with these usage conditions I_A and I_B .

Paragraphs beginning on Page 24, line 7:

This usage of the digital content M_A is accompanied by the usage condition updating unit 207 reducing the execution number by one to update the usage conditions I_A to the usage conditions I_A' (S106). The supplementary key generating unit 210 generates a new supplementary key R_A' that differs from the supplementary key R_A that was used by the second decrypting unit 203 (S107).

The first encrypting unit 208 encrypts the usage conditions I_A' produced in S106 using the supplementary key R_A' generated in S107 to produce the encrypted supplementary key $E(R_A', I_A')$ and stores this onto the recording medium 100 to update the encrypted usage conditions (S108).

If there are any questions with regards to the prosecution of this matter or the relevance of the cited references in view of the presently pending claims the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed phone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 16, 2006.

By: Sharon Farnus

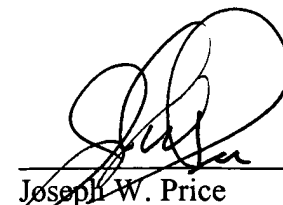


Signature

Dated: February 16, 2006

Very truly yours,

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